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by J. C. Dalton

AN

MEMORIAL

OF

EDWARD B. DALTON, M.D.

by

John Call Dalton.

His love sincere, his thoughts immaculate;
His heart as far from fraud, as heaven from earth.

NEW YORK:

1872.

MEMORIAL.

—o—

EDWARD BARRY DALTON, sixth child and fifth son of John C. Dalton, M.D., was born in Lowell, Massachusetts, September 21, 1834. In early youth his physical organization had an appearance of extreme delicacy, notwithstanding that, in bodily activity, endurance, and freedom from illness, he was fully equal to those of more robust external frame. The generous and companionable disposition, which was afterward so distinguishing a trait in his character, was noticeable even in childhood, and his intellectual superiority became abundantly manifest as soon as he commenced the more serious and practical studies of professional life.

He entered the Academic Department of Harvard University in 1851, and passed through the usual course with credit, taking parts in the Spring Exhibitions of his Junior and Senior years, and at Commencement at the time of his graduation in 1855. In the autumn of the same year he commenced the study of medicine under the direction of his father, and entered as a student in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York; passing his winters in attendance upon the lectures at the college, and continuing his studies in the intervals at Lowell, in

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the office of his father, who was then engaged in active practice in that city. After following the regular course of study for three years, he received the degree of Doctor in Medicine at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1858; his graduating thesis being a treatise on "The Disorder known as Bronzed Skin, or Disease of the Supra-renal Capsules." The disease was at that time comparatively a new subject, having been first made known to the profession by Dr. Addison in 1855; and Dr. Dalton's thesis was marked by so much merit and originality that it was recommended for publication by the Faculty of the College.*

In March, 1858, he passed a successful competitive examination for the position of Interne at the Bellevue Hospital in New York, where he became in due time House Physician. He remained in this position until May, 1859, when he was appointed Resident Physician at St. Luke's Hospital, an institution then in the second year of its existence. He continued to discharge the duties of this post for nearly two years, until the commencement of his military life.

At the opening of the rebellion in 1861, he offered himself to the Medical Examining Board of the State of New York for the position of Regimental Surgeon, and was at once approved by them and placed upon the list of medical officers awaiting appointment. About the same time it was found that a surgeon was needed to serve upon the "Quaker City," a steamer of 1,500 tons burden,

* It appeared accordingly in the *New York Journal of Medicine* for May, 1860.

then recently chartered by the Union Defence Committee of New York, and afterward by the Navy Department of the United States, to cruise as a blockading gunboat off the capes of Virginia and the mouth of Chesapeake bay. Dr. Dalton was temporarily appointed to this post. He reported for duty on board the "Quaker City" in May, and served with the vessel as medical officer for four months, at the end of which time her charter expired and she was permanently attached to the Navy, having been purchased by the Government of the United States. Dr. Dalton then returned to New York, awaiting further orders.

On the first of November he was commissioned by the State of New York as Surgeon to the 36th Regiment of New York Volunteers, then in the service of the United States at Camp Brightwood, near Washington, and at once joined his regiment, under orders from Headquarters of the Army of the Potomac.

During the winter of 1861-62, the troops remained in camp about the city of Washington, occupied for the most part in completing their organization and in practicing the routine military duties of a stationary force. This continued until the 10th of March, 1862, when the entire army, under General McClellan, moved into Virginia toward Manassas Junction, and finding that post abandoned by the enemy, returned to the Potomac river and encamped in the neighborhood of Alexandria. From this point was commenced the transfer of the army to Fortress Monroe, for the Peninsular Campaign. At that time

the organization by corps had been effected. Dr. Dalton's regiment was in the Third Brigade of General Couch's Division, and formed part of the Fourth Army Corps, commanded by Major General Keyes.

The arrival of the troops at Fortress Monroe was completed during the last week in March, and on the fourth of April the army began to move up the Peninsula. It remained stationary, however, before Yorktown, for the following month, until the fortifications of that city were abandoned by the enemy; when the army resumed its movement up the Peninsula, and, with its base of supplies at White House, advanced to the line of the Chickahominy. The Fourth Corps was the first to pass this river, which it crossed on the 23rd of May. It continued its march on the south bank, forming the extreme left of the army; and a few days afterward occupied the positions of Seven Pines and Fair Oaks, within five or six miles of Richmond. Here were fought the battles of May 31st and June 1st, which, though not absolutely defeats for our army, yet arrested its advance, and placed it more or less distinctly on the defensive. During this time Dr. Dalton was constantly with his regiment, sharing in all the fatigues and hardships of the campaign.

For the next three weeks the army became infested with sickness. The river was swollen by frequent rains, and the wide and marshy bottom-lands, on each side the narrow channel, were alternately flooded and exposed under a summer temperature. The men were employed almost incessantly in making

intrenchments and in building bridges and trestle-work, often working for hours up to their waists in water. These causes soon produced their necessary effects, and the regimental and depot hospitals became filled with cases of febrile disease, many of which proved rapidly fatal, while the numbers of the sick and disabled were daily augmented. After a time Dr. Dalton's health also began to yield, under the influence of excessive professional labor and the unwholesome exhalations of the Chickahominy swamps. He continued, however, to attend to his duties until the last, when his strength completely failed, and he was prostrated by the same insidious form of malarial fever which had already made such havoc among both officers and men. On the 23rd of June, he was found by his friend, Dr. William H. Carmalt, of New York, in a tent near Seven Pines, emaciated and exhausted, without appetite, and so far under the influence of the fever that he was incapable of providing for his own wants, or even of appreciating his own dangerous condition. Dr. Carmalt had come to the Peninsula, with several other physicians, in charge of the hospital and supply steamboat "St. Mark," provided by the Sanitary Commission, and had proceeded to the army in order to afford any required assistance in respect to medical services or supplies. He at once urged Dr. Dalton to leave the camp, and as soon as the requisite authority for his removal could be obtained, had him transferred to the hospital ship at Yorktown, which afterward proceeded to Fortress Monroe.

It was undoubtedly to this accidental meeting,

and to Dr. Carmalt's prompt and friendly action, that Dr. Dalton owed his life; as he was then so far reduced that a longer exposure to the same evil influences would, in all probability, have placed him beyond the hope of recovery. At Fortress Monroe he was met by his father, who had been notified of his condition, and had come from Massachusetts to find him. Under his father's care he sailed for the North early in July, and at once returned to his home in Massachusetts.

As happened in many similar instances of malarial fever, the most threatening signs of physical prostration soon disappeared under the influence of a northern atmosphere and appropriate medical care. At the end of two or three weeks Dr. Dalton was evidently out of danger, but his subsequent recovery took place more slowly. From time to time his leave of absence was extended until he should become again able to engage in active service; and it was only in the latter part of August that he had regained strength sufficiently to resume his duties as regimental surgeon.

During this time the disastrous period of the seven days' battles on the Peninsula, and the retreat of our forces to the James River, had been followed by the defeat of General Pope in northern Virginia. The Peninsula had just been evacuated under the orders of the Government; and the Army of the Potomac, having come by transports to the neighborhood of Alexandria, was hastening with all speed to meet the victorious enemy in Maryland. Dr. Dalton arrived in Washington and reported to the Surgeon-General on the first of September; but such was

the confusion, from the rapid and continuous transit of different portions of the army, that it was difficult to learn the position of his own command. He obtained some information, however, at the convalescent camp at Alexandria, and on the following day succeeded in finding and joining his regiment, which at once proceeded on its way up the river and into Maryland. The regiment still belonged to General Couch's Division of the Fourth Corps, which formed at this time a portion of the left wing of the army. It was stationed at Poolesville, in the neighborhood of Conrad's Ferry, in anticipation of the battle of Antietam, which took place a few days afterward.

While Dr. Dalton was at this post a singularly vexatious incident occurred to him, which illustrated in a striking manner the loose and reckless style in which a portion of the War Department was at that time administered. On the tenth of September a copy of the newspaper, which reached the camp of his regiment, contained a published General Order of the War Department in which he, with several other officers, was dismissed the service of the United States for absence without leave. This was the first and only intimation which reached him from any quarter of such a charge being in existence against him, nor did he receive any other notification of his dismissal than the printed paragraph accidentally seen in a daily newspaper. So wanton an outrage naturally excited in his friends the liveliest indignation, and Dr. Dalton himself was at a loss to account for it, or to form any idea of the source from which it had originated. He immediately took steps

to repel the charge. He left the camp at Poolesville, on the same day, for Washington, with the approval of his Division Commander, to confer on the subject with the Surgeon General, and at the same time addressed to the Adjutant General of the Army the following official paper, which may fairly be considered, under the trying circumstances of the case, as a model of quiet and dignified remonstrance.

THIRTY-SIXTH REGIMENT, NEW YORK STATE VOLUNTEERS,
September 10, 1862.

L. THOMAS, *Adjutant General, U. S. Army.*

SIR:—I read in General Order No. 125, War Department, that I am dismissed the service of the United States, "for being absent without leave" from my command, while the army to which it belonged was "fighting the enemy in the field."

Confident that the charge thus brought against my character is utterly groundless, and being sustained in that opinion by my commanding officers, both regimental and general, I respectfully beg to submit to your consideration the following statement:

On the 23d of June last, while the Thirty-sixth Regiment, N. Y. S. V., was encamped at Seven Pines, Va., I became ill, and was sent to a floating U. S. hospital by the Brigade Surgeon, with the written approval of the Medical Director of the corps, and the regimental and brigade commanders.

I subsequently applied for leave of absence, and received the same on the 7th of July, for a period of twenty days, through the proper medical and military authorities at Fortress Monroe, near which the

hospital ship then lay. I then went to my home in Massachusetts.

On the 23d day of July I forwarded to the War Department from Boston, Mass., an application for an extension of my leave for a period of thirty days, accompanying the same with the proper medical certificate prescribed by the U. S. Army regulations, and signed by the Surgeon General of Massachusetts, Acting Assistant Surgeon U. S. Army.

On the 21st day of August I presented myself at New York to William J. Sloan, Surgeon U. S. Army and Medical Director. From him I received a certificate in due form to the necessity of a re-extension of my leave for a period of fifteen days. This I immediately forwarded to the War Department. Surgeon Sloan also informed me that the fact of my not having received any reply to my previous application was not peculiar, and that the proper medical certificate was sufficient authority upon which to remain absent. A few days subsequent to this I received from the War Department a printed copy of an order relative to volunteer officers absent on leave for more than sixty days in consequence of wounds or of disease contracted in the line of their duty, stating that such would be reported to the Adjutant General for discharge.

On the first of September, four days previous to the expiration of my leave, I reported in person to the Surgeon General U. S. Army, at Washington, and on the second to Colonel J. S. Belknap, commanding at Convalescent Camp, Alexandria, Va., and subsequently, on the same day, to Colonel William H. Browne, Thirty-sixth Regiment, N. Y. S. V.

I have in my possession the official papers attesting the truth of the above.

In view of the facts, I respectfully solicit an early consideration of my case at your hands, and, if I am entitled to it, public reparation for the disgrace which has been thrown upon my name.

Respectfully,

EDWARD B. DALTON.

It might be anticipated that the War Department would naturally be anxious, in such a case, to make the most abundant reparation to a faithful and injured officer for the undeserved annoyance and irritation to which he had been subjected. This, however, did not appear to enter into the calculations of the Administration. The only public amends made in regard to the affair was a formal revocation of the dismissal, published in General Orders, sixteen days later, of which Dr. Dalton received the following copy:

WAR DEPARTMENT,

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, September 26, 1862.

GENERAL ORDERS, No. 143.

So much of "General Orders No. 125," as dismisses Surgeon Edward B. Dalton, Thirty-sixth New York Volunteers, is, by direction of the President, revoked.

By order of the Secretary of War,

(Signed) L. THOMAS,

Adjutant General.

Official.

E. D. TOWNSEND,

Assistant Adjutant General.

Of the eleven officers dismissed in General Orders No. 125, all but four were reinstated in the same manner as above, the charges against them being, no doubt, equally groundless.

Notwithstanding this vexatious occurrence, Dr. Dalton resumed his duties with his usual alacrity and devotion, and seldom referred to it subsequently in terms of complaint.

A day or two after the battle of Antietam, the enemy retired across the Potomac to the entrance of the Shenandoah Valley. The Union forces, after a delay of several weeks, in the latter part of October also crossed the river a short distance below Harper's Ferry. The two armies then commenced a parallel movement toward the south, with the Blue Ridge between them, until, on the 9th of November, the General Headquarters of our army were at Warrenton, near the sources of the Rappahannock river. At this point the command was transferred from General McClellan to General Burnside; and within ten days afterward the army had commenced and executed its rapid march, in a southeasterly direction, toward Falmouth and Fredericksburg, in order to carry out the new plan of campaign against Richmond, from Fredericksburg and Acquia Creek as a base of operations.

Then came the extraordinary and unfortunate misunderstanding by which the pontoon train, required for the prompt passage of the river at Falmouth, was not forwarded from Washington, and the consequent failure to secure possession of Fredericksburg and the southern bank. The troops accordingly remained in position about Falmouth until the battle of Frede-

ricksburg, December 13th. At that time the Army of the Potomac had been organized into three Grand Divisions. The Thirty-sixth Regiment N. Y. V. was now in the Second Brigade of the Third Division of the Sixth Corps, commanded by General W. H. Smith, and was included in the Left Grand Division of the Army, under Major General Franklin.

This portion of the army crossed the river just below the city of Fredericksburg, on the two days preceding the battle, December 11th and 12th, holding the bridge-heads at this point until the commencement of the action, when they were expected to produce a decisive impression upon the enemy's right. After the failure of the general assault, the army retained its position on the Fredericksburg side until the night of December 15th, when it was withdrawn, and returned to the camps about Falmouth. About the middle of the following January it went into winter quarters, and on the 26th of the same month General Burnside was superseded in command by General Hooker.

During this time Dr. Dalton's superiority as a medical officer had become quite apparent to those associated with him, and he was soon called to positions of greater responsibility. On the second of January, 1863, he was detailed by Major General Smith as Medical Inspector for the Sixth Corps, and immediately entered upon the duties of his new position. Soon afterward his military status was permanently changed from the position of regimental surgeon to that of "Surgeon, United States Volunteers."

At the commencement of the war each volunteer

regiment had been provided, so far as possible, with a surgeon and assistant surgeon definitely attached to the command like other regimental officers, and receiving their commissions in a similar manner from the authorities of the State to which the regiment belonged. At the same time a different grade of medical officers was instituted, with the title of "Brigade Surgeon," to assist in providing for the general administration of the medical affairs of troops in the field, as well as that of general and post hospitals. The brigade surgeons, thus created, were commissioned directly by the President of the United States, and could thus be assigned to general duties in such manner as the exigencies of the service might require.

After a time it became desirable to increase the number of medical officers of this class. The title of brigade surgeon was dropped, and that of "Surgeon and Assistant Surgeon, U. S. Volunteers" adopted in its stead. The old brigade surgeons became at once Surgeons, U. S. V.; and a medical board was convened for the examination of others who might desire appointment to the new grade. The law required that each successful candidate should first be commissioned as assistant surgeon; after which he might be promoted to the grade of surgeon in due time. It was intimated to some of the volunteer regimental surgeons, whose services had been found to be most valuable, that if they were willing to enter the new corps with the secondary rank of assistants, as required by law, an early opportunity of promotion to the full grade of surgeon would be afforded them. Dr. Dalton was among

the first who received this intimation. He accordingly resigned his commission as Surgeon of the Thirty-sixth Regiment, appeared before the Examining Medical Board at Washington on the 24th of February, and was appointed Assistant Surgeon March 11th, and Surgeon, U.S.V., March 26th, 1863. He was still retained on duty as Medical Inspector of the Sixth Corps, which was now under the command of Major General Sedgwick.

In the early part of this year he married Miss Sarah Horton Colburn, daughter of Warren Colburn, the mathematician. The marriage took place at Cambridge, Mass., February 7th; Dr. Dalton having arrived from Virginia the day previous. After an absence of twenty days he again returned to his post with the army of the Potomac.

The following summer and winter were spent by Dr. Dalton for the most part in administrative and hospital service at Fortress Monroe and the neighboring posts. In the latter part of March he was ordered from the Army of the Potomac to Fortress Monroe, then the Headquarters of the Military Department of Virginia, under the command of General Dix. The comparative quiet of the service at this point was broken for a short time only during the summer by General Dix's demonstration against Richmond. In the month of June the enemy left his position at Fredericksburg for the invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania; and the Army of the Potomac moved in a corresponding direction, to confront the rebel forces on the field of Gettysburg. At the same time our troops in the Department of Virginia commenced a movement up

the Peninsula, from Fortress Monroe and Yorktown. The expedition occupied White House, June 25th, and on the first of July advanced toward the Chickahominy river, for the purpose of threatening Richmond and thus embarrassing the movements of General Lee in Pennsylvania and Maryland. The battle of Gettysburg was fought on the third of July, and ten days afterward General Lee retired into Virginia. Our forces, however, continued to occupy the upper part of the Peninsula for several weeks. During this period Dr. Dalton was Acting Medical Director of the Army of Virginia, on the staff of General Dix. He provided for the medical supplies of the expedition, and accompanied the troops to White House, the extreme base of operations, where he remained for a short time, until the withdrawal of our forces from that point.

For the next five or six weeks he was temporarily in charge of the Chesapeake General Hospital near Fortress Monroe. On the 14th of September he was relieved from this post and assigned as Chief Medical Officer to the Balfour General Hospital at Portsmouth, Virginia, a hospital which contained on the average rather more than two hundred sick and wounded. Here he remained during the following season, with ample opportunities for learning the details of providing and administering a stationary hospital, which he afterward developed with such remarkable success on a much larger scale. He enjoyed here also the comforts of a home and the society of his wife, who spent the greater part of the fall and winter in company with him at Fortress Monroe and Portsmouth. Early, however, in the

next year, he found that the climate of the locality, and the confinement and monotony of hospital life, were having a depressing effect upon his health and usefulness. Both his mental and bodily temperament required a more active employment; and he addressed to the Surgeon General's Office a request for assignment to duty in the field, as follows:

BALFOUR GENERAL HOSPITAL,
PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA, February 12th, 1864.

Col. JOSEPH K. BARNES, U. S. A.,

Acting Surgeon General, U. S. Army.

COLONEL: I have the honor to request that, if not inconsistent with your views, I may be relieved from duty as surgeon in charge of this hospital, and ordered to report at Headquarters of the Army of the Potomac. The confinement incident to hospital duty, especially in a climate where I have suffered severely from malarial disease, is seriously injuring my health, while active duty in the field has not done so.

Previous to my transfer to this Department, I served eighteen months in the Army of the Potomac, and I strongly desire to rejoin it.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

EDWARD B. DALTON,

Surgeon, U. S. V.

This request was readily granted; and in accordance with orders to that effect, Dr. Dalton left Portsmouth on the first of March, and a day or two afterward reported at Headquarters of the Army of the

Potomac, where he was at once assigned to duty as Medical Inspector. He was not at this time attached to any single corps, but acted as "Inspector for the Medical Department of the Army of the Potomac." He reported directly to the office of the Medical Director, Surgeon McParlin, from whom he received orders for the inspection of various portions of the army, and for "such services connected with the Medical Department, as might from time to time be required of him."

The army at this time, under the command of General Meade, lay upon the north bank of the Rapidan, where it had remained during the previous winter, with the enemy equally intrenched on the south bank of the same river. In the month of March, General Grant was appointed Lieutenant General, and assigned to the supreme military command of the armies of the United States. On the 17th he assumed command, making his headquarters in the field with the Army of the Potomac.

The great struggle of the summer of 1864 was now about to commence, by which the Army of the Potomac, again in close contact with its old adversary, was to force its way through Northern Virginia to a new position before Petersburg and Richmond. The month of April was spent in completing the necessary recruitment and preparation of the troops. On the Fourth of May the movement began. The army left its intrenchments on the Rapidan, penetrating the country immediately south of that river known as the "Wilderness," and moving by the left flank toward Spottsylvania Court House. Then came the series of obstinate and sanguinary encounters, begin-

ning with the battles of the Wilderness, May 5th and 6th, and continued almost without interruption by those of Spottsylvania Court House, the North Anna, Hanovertown, Cold Harbor, and the intervening points, until the appearance of the advanced corps of the army before Petersburg, and the attacks on the defences of that city, June 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th. During this period there were no less than ten actions deserving the name of battles; and out of forty-five days, twenty-seven had been days of more or less considerable fighting by various portions of the army. Never before, since the commencement of the war, had the positions on both sides been assailed with more determination or held with more tenacity; and the number of casualties, both in dead and wounded, was correspondingly large. At the same time, the army was almost constantly moving in such a manner as to require repeated changes in its base of supplies, and of course also in the direction in which its sick and wounded were to be transported. This latter duty was intrusted to the care of Dr. Dalton.

During the battles of the Wilderness he was with the army, occupied with the duties incident to his position on the general medical staff. Immediately afterward he was charged with the removal and care of all the wounded, by the following order:

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE,
May 7th, 1864.

Surgeon E. B. DALTON, U. S. V.,

Inspct. Medical Department, Army of the Potomac.

SIR—The instructions given you this morning are

so far modified that you will accompany the train of ambulances and wagons on its march with this army, and take general charge thereof as senior medical officer, and see that the wounded are well cared for and supplied in every particular so far as may be possible. You will keep me informed of their condition at all times. The necessities of the service fully require the best endeavors of the Medical Department to execute a most important and difficult duty.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

THOS. A. MCPARLIN,

Surgeon U. S. A., Medical Director.

On the following day, the city of Fredericksburg having been fixed upon as a base, Dr. Dalton was directed to establish at this point the first hospital depot. Here he collected and placed under shelter, by the ninth of May, over 7,000 wounded, converting the city into an organization of corps hospitals, and providing for all the immediate necessities of the medical service. This, however, was but the beginning of the work required. The wounded from the Wilderness continued to be brought in, and were followed at once by those from the battles of Spottsylvania Court House, May 10th, 12th and 18th. Every available means was called into requisition for the transportation, reception and care of so large a number of disabled and suffering men ; and all the medical officers present, together with a large delegation of surgeons from civil life, who had volunteered their assistance for the emergency, were

abundantly occupied in performing the necessary labors. At least an equal amount of diligence was needed for the transhipment of many of the wounded, and their immediate transfer to Washington. For Fredericksburg, owing to the shifting position of the armies, could not be a permanent depot; and the wounded must not be allowed to accumulate in such a manner as to interfere with their safety, when the time for evacuation should arrive.

On the twenty-first the army commenced its movement from the neighborhood of Spottsylvania toward the North Anna; and the hospital trains, instead of being sent to Fredericksburg, were directed to Port Royal, twenty miles farther down the Rappahannock river. This point was used for a few days as the second depot and base of supplies. Soon afterward Dr. Dalton received instructions for further movements, in the following order from the Medical Director of the Army:

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
Camp at Mango Hick, near Junction of North and South Anna, Va.;
MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE,
May 27, 1864, 4.15 P. M.

SIR—This army, by its advance, has ceased to be within reach or convenient use of Port Royal as a depot for wounded to be sent to Washington, or as a point from which to draw medical and hospital supplies. I desire that the transport vessels and medical purveying and supply vessels, be immediately ordered to proceed to White House, on the Pamunkey river, and that the field hospital encampment equipage, and officers serving at Port Royal, be transferred immediately to that point.

The last trains of wounded left this army for Port Royal May 27th; and no more wounded will be sent to, or waited for, at Port Royal after their arrival.

I am, Sir, with much respect,

Your obedient servant,

THOS. A. MCPARLIN,

Surgeon U. S. A., Medical Director.

Surgeon E. B. DALTON, U. S. Vols.,

Chief Medical Officer,

Fredericksburg.

Both Port Royal and the city of Fredericksburg were accordingly abandoned at the same time that the army crossed the Pamunkey river, May 28th; the wounded being all sent to Washington, and the medical supplies moved to White House, where the third depot was established, and the wounded again received from the army. A similar process of temporary hospital organization, treatment, and transhipment of wounded, continued here for two weeks, followed by another evacuation, and the transportation of stores and hospital material, round the Peninsula to City Point, the new base of operations reached by the army, on the south bank of the James river. All these movements were conducted under Dr. Dalton's immediate direction, and were accomplished so successfully, that none of the wounded were left behind at either point, nor any of the hospital property abandoned; and the new hospital depot was established at City Point, almost simultaneously with its occupation by the Army of the Potomac.

It having now become evident that the main operations for a considerable time would take place before Petersburg, with City Point as a base, it was determined to retain the hospital accommodations at that point, and to develop them on a plan commensurate with the requirements of the entire army. This was accordingly done, under the personal direction of Dr. Dalton, who remained in charge as Chief Medical Officer; the organization itself receiving the name of the "Depot Field Hospital of the Army of the Potomac." It was made capable of accommodating 10,000 patients, and nearly that number were often under treatment at the same time. By the month of October all its principal features were fully developed. The details of the entire operation of this department, from its commencement after the battles of the Wilderness, are best given in the following report made by Dr. Dalton in December, 1864, at the desire of the Medical Director:

DEPOT FIELD HOSPITAL, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
CITY POINT, VA., December, 1864.

Brevet Lieut. Col. THOS. A. MCPARLIN, U. S. A.,
Medical Director of the Army of the Potomac:

SIR—I have the honor to submit the following report upon the origin and development of the Depot Field Hospital of the Army of the Potomac, from May to October of the present year:

On the 7th of May, 1864, it was ordered from the Headquarters of the Army of the Potomac, that all the wounded from the battle-fields of the Wilderness should be taken across the Rapidan, via Ely's Ford,

Acquia Creek
Potomac R.
Rapidan R.
Wilder
Fredericksburg
ness
Port Royal
Spottsylvania C.H.
Rappahannock R.
North Anna R.
Hanovertown
Pamunkey R.
Cold Harbor
White House
RICHMOND
Chickahominy R.
York R.
Appomattox R.
Petersburg
City Point
James R.
Fort Monroe
Norfolk
Portsmouth
MAP
showing the
successive transfers of the
DEPOT FIELD HOSPITALS
from Fredericksburg to City Point
May 7th to June 18th
1864.

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to Rappahannock Station on the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, and thence sent by rail to Washington; and I was ordered to take general charge of their transportation.

Owing to the constant and heavy demand for ambulances at the immediate front, a large number of army wagons were furnished by the Quartermaster's Department, to assist in the execution of this order. The amount of transportation, however, was still quite insufficient, and a large number of wounded were left at the various field depots, under the care of a few medical officers and attendants, provided with such shelter, supplies, and rations, as the emergency allowed. The train was at once gotten in readiness, loaded with wounded, and furnished with the requisite amount of rations and medical supplies. A few medical officers were detailed from each corps for the care of the wounded during the trip.

The train was fairly under way when the enemy's cavalry was reported in the vicinity of Ely's Ford. An order was received to proceed no farther in that direction, but to turn back and follow in the rear of the army. This order was at once carried into effect, and the train followed the line of march during the night.

The following day, May 8th, I received an order to conduct the train to Fredericksburg, Va., and there place the wounded in temporary hospital accommodations, until they could be removed to Washington. A suitable escort was provided, and the train proceeded as ordered, entering Fredericksburg about one o'clock on the morning of the ninth.

The churches, public buildings, warehouses, mills, and the more commodious of the private dwellings were at once taken possession of for hospital purposes, and a large number of wounded officers and men were billeted upon such families as remained in town. Over 7,000 wounded, the whole number brought on the train, were thus placed under shelter. The number of medical officers and attendants was, of necessity, disproportionately small. Some forty medical officers were present. These worked most faithfully and steadily day and night. The immediate necessities of the wounded were attended to with very little delay, and the less pressing demands met with all possible dispatch.

The absolute impossibility of preparing accurate records under these circumstances, makes it impossible now to furnish more than a report of the general conduct of affairs. Every effort was made to systematize as rapidly as possible. The organization adopted was by corps, corresponding to the organization of the army. Certain buildings, with the adjacent district of the town, were assigned to each corps hospital, and the men belonging to the same collected, so far as practicable, within the limits of this district. From the medical officers present of each corps, one was selected as surgeon in charge, and the remainder were assigned to duty as assistants. This same organization, with some modification in the details, has continued up to the present time.

The day after the occupation of the city, and for several days subsequently, trains of ambulances, containing supplies, were sent with flag-of-truce under charge of a medical officer to the Wilderness, for

the purpose of completing the removal of the wounded. All, save a few taken by the enemy, were thus brought into town.

Owing to the fact that this occupation of Fredericksburg, as a hospital, was entirely unexpected, a day or two intervened between the arrival of the wounded and the establishment of communication with Washington; during which time the supply of medical and hospital stores, surgical appliances, et cetera, was quite limited. Ships, laden with everything necessary, reached Belle Plain on the 10th of May, and wagon trains at once brought an abundance to the city.

At the same time, a number of surgeons from civil life arrived and reported for duty, in accordance with orders from the Surgeon General's office. Many of these rendered most valuable assistance.

Immediately upon the establishment of communication with Washington, measures were taken to transfer to that city all such men as were disabled for more than thirty days. All the available transportation was used for the more severe cases, while many wounded only in the upper extremity were sent in squads on foot to Belle Plain, under charge of a medical officer, and there placed on board transports.

Meantime the battles of Spottsylvania sent in daily accessions to the number in the city. In some instances the ambulance and wagon trains conveying these were unloaded at once; while in others they were halted for a sufficient length of time to allow for the immediate wants of those on board, and were then sent on at once to Belle Plain.

On the 20th three hundred hospital tents arrived. These were distributed to the different corps hospitals, and were at once pitched outside the town. So many of the wounded as could be accommodated were transferred from the buildings without delay.

On the 22d the repairs of the Falmouth and Acquia Creek railway were completed, and this additional means constantly made use of for the removal of the wounded to Acquia Landing, to which point the depots, previously at Belle Plain, had been transferred.

Simultaneously with the opening of the railroad, light draught steamers reached the city by the Rappahannock river. These were hastily furnished with supplies, straw, etc., and used for the transportation of wounded to Tappahannock, and other points lower down the river, where hospital transports were ready to receive and convey them to Washington.

The army had now moved so far that Fredericksburg was no longer eligible as a hospital depot, and every effort was made to evacuate the town as promptly as possible. By the morning of Saturday, the 28th of May, the wounded were all removed, and all public property placed on board steamers and barges in tow. These dropped down the river under convoy of a gunboat, while the ambulances and army wagons moved overland, under escort of the troops which had been garrisoning the city during the occupation. By night both reached Port Royal, which had already been occupied as a depot, but was about to be abandoned in consequence of the onward march of the army toward the Peninsula. Some thousand wounded had been brought here

from the front by Surgeon A. J. Phelps, U. S. V., and by him sent thence to Washington. No more were expected; and White House, on the Pamunkey river, had been designated as the next base. The necessary arrangements for transportation to said point were made without delay, and the medical officers, with their hospital attendants and property, sailed on the afternoon of the following day. Surgeon W. L. Faxon, Thirty-second Mass. Vols., in charge of the Fifth Corps Hospital, remained in charge at Port Royal until the departure of the last boat, to see that nothing appertaining to the department should be neglected. After thoroughly performing this duty, he accompanied the troops and train across land to the new base.

We reached White House on the 30th, and immediately commenced unloading and pitching the tents, and preparing for the reception of wounded, whose arrival from the battle fields of Hanovertown and Cold Harbor was now looked for every hour. The hospitals were arranged along the river bank, in double echelon, extending from the former site of the White House some three fourths of a mile down the river, with a breadth of half a mile. Shelter, supplies, and facilities for cooking were in readiness when the first train reached the landing on the afternoon of the 1st of June.

Captain Pitkin, A. Q. M., Depot Quartermaster, spared no effort in affording every facility for the prompt accommodation and comfortable transportation of these men. It being understood that this base was but temporary, every available steamer bound thence to Washington was immediately

provided with straw, rations, medical supplies and cooking apparatus, and loaded with wounded. These were sent under charge of medical officers detailed to this duty, by virtue of the pressing emergency and the absolute impossibility of communicating with headquarters for orders. Thus thousands found immediate accommodation upon the boats without even the delay of registering their names; sufficient examination being given on the spot to prevent the escape of malingerers or deserters.

From the 1st of June to the 13th there were daily and sometimes hourly arrivals of trains from the front, the number thus received being sufficient to keep the hospitals full in spite of every effort to relieve them.

On the thirteenth, however, the arrivals ceased. Information was received that the army was moving by the left flank to the James River, and twenty-four hours sufficed to send away a large proportion of the remaining wounded, strike the tents, and repack and ship a good portion of the property. At this juncture, Captain J. E. Jones, A.Q.M., and Captain B. F. Talbot, C. S., reported for duty with the Hospital Department. The latter at once provided abundant subsistence stores, issued a sufficient quantity for those who must still remain a day or two, and shipped the remainder, to be taken with the first medical boat for the new base. Assistant Surgeon A. K. St. Clair, First Michigan Cavalry, was detailed to remain in charge at the landing, whence he successfully removed the remaining wounded and the stores.

On the morning of the fourteenth a large proportion of the medical officers, the Commissary and the

Quartermaster, together with the Purveying Department and most of the hospital property, started down the Pamunkey, *en route* for Jamestown Island in the James River, which had been designated in your letter of June 12th, as the probable rendezvous until further orders. A temporary delay was occasioned at Yorktown by the great reluctance of the captains of the purveying steamers "Planter," "Farmer," and "Hugh Jenkins," to proceed. Their objections were however overruled, and we reached Jamestown Island on the afternoon of the fifteenth. Here, orders were received through you, to proceed to City Point and there establish the hospital depot.

On the sixteenth, on reaching the pontoon bridge near Fort Powhatan, we were delayed by the crossing of cavalry and the cattle. Surgeon Phelps, however, succeeded in getting above the bridge by means of a small boat, and thence by tug to City Point, where he located a site for the hospital.

We finally reached our destination at City Point on the eighteenth, just as a train of ambulances arrived, loaded with wounded from the assault upon Petersburg. These were at once attended to, and transportation to Washington provided for them, hospital transports being loaned for the purpose by Surgeon McCormick, U. S. A., Medical Director of the Department of Virginia and North Carolina.

The hospital property was at once unloaded and conveyed to the site selected, and there put in readiness as rapidly as possible for the reception of wounded, who still continued to come in in large numbers. The site, which is the one still occupied, is located to the south of the James River, one mile

from City Point toward Petersburg. It is situated upon a broad plain, extending from the Petersburg pike to the high bluffs overlooking the basin of the Appomattox, just at the junction of the latter river with the James.

The plan of the encampment, which still remains essentially unaltered, was mainly devised by Doctor Phelps. Some irregularities occurred in its execution, in consequence of the embarrassment of laying out the camp and erecting tents, at the same time that the presence of wounded called constantly for professional labor. By means of pontoons, two temporary wharves were soon constructed at a convenient point, a short distance up the Appomattox. These were for the exclusive use of the hospital, and were used respectively for the landing and issuing of supplies, and for transferring wounded to the hospital transports.

The services of the transports were immediately, and, for a time constantly, in demand. Two of these, the "Connecticut" and the "State of Maine," were of sufficiently light draught to be able to come alongside the wharf. The "De Molay" could reach the mouth of the Appomattox, and was there loaded by means of lighters. The "Atlantic," "Baltic," and "Western Metropolis," came no farther than Fort Monroe, or Newport News, and were there loaded by transfer from the "Connecticut" and "State of Maine." All rendered efficient service, especially the "Connecticut," which has been, throughout the campaign, remarkable for the promptness and energy displayed in her management.

The purveying department met all necessary

demands with promptness and liberality. Nothing really essential to the care of the wounded was wanting. Bedsacks and blankets were supplied without stint, although, for a time, bedsteads were dispensed with, except in the severest cases; a large proportion of the patients being placed upon sacks, amply filled with straw, and arranged upon the ground beneath the tents. None were without shelter. Drugs and dressings in abundance, hospital stores, ice, and even delicacies, were constantly issued. Cooking stoves, caldrons, and portable ovens, were on hand in sufficient quantity for any emergency. Requisitions received prompt and full attention at all times. But a short time elapsed before the arrival of an abundant supply of bedsteads, when sheets and pillow-cases were at once made use of in all cases where they could essentially add to the comfort of the patient.

The capacity of the hospital was rapidly increased, until it became capable of accommodating ten thousand patients. At first these were mainly wounded; but, as the season advanced, and the prolonged duty in the trenches told upon the men, the proportion of sick became greater. Each successive engagement would fill the beds with wounded, but these, especially the severely hurt, were sent north as rapidly as possible; while the sick, as a general rule, were removed only when the character of the case rendered a change of climate essential to recovery.

The entire encampment now covers an area of some two hundred acres, and is composed of twelve hundred hospital tents. The latter were at first

pitched in groups composed of two tents and an intervening fly, placed end to end. These groups are arranged in rows, side by side, divided by lateral interspaces of fifteen feet in width between the individual groups. The ends of the groups abut upon streets sixty feet wide, running parallel with the river and meeting at right angles a main avenue one hundred and eighty feet in width, which extends from the verge of the bluff, directly through the centre of the camp, to the Petersburg pike. Since the approach of cool weather, an entire tent has been substituted for the intervening fly, in each group.

Shortly after the establishment of the hospital at this point, works were constructed by the Quartermaster for supplying the encampment with water. Two steam engines, of four horse-power each, were placed at the foot of the bluff, at the edge of the river, whence they force water into a tank capable of containing six thousand gallons, which is raised thirty feet above the level of the bluff and supported upon a strong wooden trestle work. From this tank a conducting pipe of two inches in diameter descends to the ground, and is then conducted, at a depth of eighteen inches below the surface, along the main avenue. At right angles to this main pipe, smaller ones diverge at intervals, and enter the various divisions of the hospital, where, at the extremity of each pipe, is a hydrant. These works, which were completed on the sixth of July, have proved entirely satisfactory. An abundance of river water was thus supplied for laundry, bathing, and other coarser purposes. Wells were dug in various parts of the hospital, and these, with numerous springs in the

vicinity, afforded a plentiful supply for drinking and cooking.

For several weeks subsequent to the arrival at City Point, no rain fell; and the accumulation of dust became a source of the greatest discomfort. Bodies of troops and wagon trains were constantly passing along the main road; and the dust thus disturbed was borne in dense clouds over and through the camp, filling the tents and penetrating even the bedclothes. This matter was represented at the Surgeon General's Office, and sprinkling carts applied for. Eight of these were promptly sent down from Washington, and were immediately and constantly made use of. They afforded great relief, not only in subduing the dust, but also in moderating the intense heat of the atmosphere. As an additional means, high, broad bowers were built continuously along the ends of the tents, on each side of the streets.

For purposes of drainage, each group of tents was surrounded by a trench, eight inches in depth. From these trenches, the water is conducted into ditches, which run parallel to, and on each side of, the streets, and terminate, by means of still larger ones, in various irregular ravines with which the ground is broken, and which descend rapidly to the river. This system has proved entirely effectual.

It is impossible, by merely quoting the register, to convey an accurate idea of the number of sick and wounded who have received attention in this hospital. At Fredericksburg, at White House, and still later at City Point, hundreds passed through under circumstances which rendered it impracticable to register their names, or even to accurately estimate

their number. These instances occurred during, or immediately subsequent to, an engagement; when the accumulation of wounded, and the constant calls for professional labor, sometimes made it necessary to transfer at once from the ambulances to the hospital transports. In fact, as I have already stated, so unremitting were the professional duties of the medical officers during the first fortnight at Fredericksburg that it was impossible even to prepare morning reports; and it was not until the sixteenth of May that even a numerical report was attempted. From that date to the present, daily reports have been forwarded; and they show that from the 16th of May, 1864, to October 31st, 1864, there have been received into this Hospital, and retained here under treatment, for at least forty-eight hours, 68,540 sick and wounded, officers and men. Of these, 48,613 have been transferred to the various U. S. general hospitals at the north, and 10,706 have been returned direct from this hospital to duty with their commands. One thousand four hundred and ninety-six have died.

A vast number of the wounded had, when received here, already suffered amputation, or other capital operations, at the immediate front; while in a great many other cases similar interference was still necessary. The experience here has given the most convincing evidence in favor of primary operations in gunshot wounds.

The majority of the sick, received during the summer, have suffered from dysentery, diarrhœa and malarial fevers. A small proportion of cases of typhoid fever have occurred, and a very few, com-

paratively, of pneumonia and milder diseases of the chest. The manifestations of malarial influences have, as a general rule, been of a mild character, and evidently owing in great measure to the prolonged exposure and hard service to which the men have been subjected in the trenches. In fact, very many of these do not properly come under the head of either of the recognized classes of malarious fever, but were rather cases of a depressed condition, not inaptly expressed by the term "malarial malaise." A large proportion of these recovered rapidly and entirely under the influences of rest, cleanliness, and good nourishment, together with the moderate administration of quinine and iron. A number of cases have arisen within the limits of this encampment, but not in sufficient number, or of sufficient severity, to impair the efficiency of the hospital, or to throw any doubt upon the propriety of its establishment and continuance. On the contrary, the numbers who have recovered and been returned to duty within a few weeks after their admission, and without removal to a distance from the seat of war, have proved this site a most eligible one.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
E. B. Dalton, *Surgeon U. S. Vols.*,
Chief Medical Officer.

It was the successful establishment and administration of this hospital, on a scale much surpassing any other which had been attempted in the field, that won for Dr. Dalton the unmingled commendation and confidence of his superior officers. He had the

peculiar talent of doing his work in an easy, and at the same time a thoroughly efficient manner. His control over officers and men was absolute; yet exercised in such a way as to be eminently agreeable, and to bind his subordinates in a sentiment of friendship and regard. He inspired all under his charge with a genuine desire to perform their duties in the most creditable manner; and the general feeling in the hospital camp was that of a spontaneous desire to work for the common interests of the service, rather than a compulsory subjection to the will of the chief officer. It was only in rare instances that severity was needed to enforce discipline or efficiency, though at such times the offender immediately felt the full pressure of a rigid authority. The result was seen in the harmonious and successful working of the entire organization.

Dr. Dalton continued in charge of this hospital throughout the summer and winter of 1864-5; until the moment arrived when the last great blow was to be struck against the defences of Petersburg. On the 25th of March, 1865, he was relieved from duty at the Depot Field Hospital, and assigned as Medical Director of the Ninth Corps. This corps was under the command of Major General Parke, and held the right of the Union lines, on the east and south-east of the enemy's works. The main assault took place on the morning of April 2d; and on the 3d, the enemy having evacuated their works and abandoned the city and their capital, thus rendered untenable, the corps marched into Petersburg and took possession of the place. The same afternoon it continued its march, following the more advanced

corps; and at the time of General Lee's surrender, on the 9th of April, it occupied the line of the Lynchburg railroad.

Dr. Dalton, who was with the corps throughout, reached Burkesville, a station about fifty miles west of Petersburg, on the 7th, and at once established the corps hospitals at that point. Here he had not only charge of the sick and wounded of his own corps, but also received and provided for all those coming from the front and *en route* for City Point; to whom were now added the still larger numbers of disabled rebel prisoners passing in the same direction. For the successful management of the affairs of his department, both at the time of the assault on Petersburg and subsequently, he received special commendation in the Reports of both the Medical Inspector and Medical Director of the Army. He continued to be engaged in these duties until the 19th, when the corps moved for City Point and embarked for Washington. On their arrival he was assigned as Chief Medical Officer at the depot hospital at Alexandria.

The war was now practically over, and Dr. Dalton was one of the first of the volunteer officers to retire from military life and resume the occupations of peace. He tendered his resignation to the Adjutant General on the 24th of April, 1865, for the reason "that, as the necessity for volunteer medical officers in the army was no longer pressing, he wished to turn his attention to private business." His tender of resignation was approved by the Surgeon General, with the indorsement that "Surgeon Dalton's entire service has been marked

by devotion to the duties of his position, and under all circumstances he has displayed professional zeal and ability in an eminent degree. It is respectfully recommended that, upon acceptance of his resignation, he receive the thanks of the War Department for meritorious services."

This recommendation was more than carried out; and on the 15th of August, 1865, although Dr. Dalton's resignation had already been accepted, he was successively appointed by the President, for "faithful and meritorious services," Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel and Colonel of Volunteers. Thus ended his connection with the army, which had begun at the first outbreak of the Rebellion, and had continued, through all the vicissitudes of that trying period, till the final re-establishment of the national supremacy.

Dr. Dalton at once formed his plans for engaging in the practice of his profession. After spending the summer months in a needed interval of rest and recreation, he came to New York in September, 1865, and established himself there; being associated in medical copartnership with one of his oldest and most valued friends, Dr. George A. Peters, of that city. This professional association continued for several years, and was the source of the highest gratification to both parties.

A short time, however, only elapsed before Dr. Dalton was again called to assume duties of a more executive character. In February, 1866, the Legislature of New York created the "Metropolitan Board of Health," for the preservation of life and health, and to prevent the spread of disease within the Metropolitan Sanitary District. This district

embraced the cities of New York and Brooklyn, the towns of Newtown, Flushing and Jamaica, on Long Island, and the adjacent counties of Richmond and Westchester.

In order to carry out effectually the intentions of the Commissioners, and to provide for the prompt enforcement of their regulations over so extensive and populous a district, it was important that its medical supervision should be intrusted to an officer of tried faithfulness and ability. Dr. Dalton's previous services had shown him to be eminently qualified for such a position. He was accordingly appointed at the third meeting of the Board, March 5th, 1866, its chief executive officer, under the title of Sanitary Superintendent. His duties in this post were to "execute, or cause to be executed, the orders of said Board, and generally, according to its instructions, to exercise a practical supervision in respect to the inspectors, agents, and other persons" acting under the authority of the Board, and to make reports to the Board, weekly or oftener, "stating generally his own action and that of his subordinates, and the condition of the public health in said district, and any causes endangering life or health that have come to his knowledge during said period."

For the first few weeks his time was fully occupied in acquiring information as to the actual sanitary condition and needs of the Metropolitan District. An inspection corps was organized, consisting of twenty-four sanitary inspectors and thirty-seven assistants, each of whom was assigned to a specified district, and required to make semi-weekly reports

of anything therein requiring the attention of the Board of Health.

The labors and responsibility of the organization were soon greatly increased by the epidemic of Asiatic cholera, which appeared in New York on the first of May, and continued until the middle of October. During this time two public cholera hospitals were established in New York and two in Brooklyn, to which three hundred and eighty cases of cholera were admitted. Much the larger number of patients, however, were attended and cared for at their homes; and as at the height of the epidemic there were in the city of New York from twenty-five to thirty new cases each day, nearly all of which were dependent for examination and treatment on the Medical Inspectors of the Board of Health, great diligence and devotion were required to meet the emergency. Dr. Dalton's influence was abundantly felt in the promptitude and activity manifested in the entire department, and in the ready and harmonious co-operation of all its officers.

The security of the public, however, during the epidemic of cholera, was only one of the temporary objects contemplated by the Board of Health. Its purpose was to effect a permanent improvement in regard to a variety of matters detrimental to the public health; and the next two years were devoted to the accomplishment of these designs.

The most important improvements effected in this way were the removal of the numerous slaughter-houses then existing in the densely built portions of the city, with all their accompanying evils of cattle-driving, transportation of offal, and the like, and

their concentration in large abattoirs situated at a distance from the centres of population; — the correction of offensive and deleterious emanations from the various gas-works, which had become a serious and almost constant source of danger and discomfort throughout the city;—the more effectual cleansing of the streets, then performed in an exceedingly negligent and imperfect manner;—the amelioration of tenement and school-houses, and increased provision for the comfort and health of their occupants;—and the rectification of many deficiencies in the sewerage and drainage of streets and dwelling-houses. A Bureau of Disinfection was also established, by means of which localities, found to be immediately dangerous to the health of the neighborhood, were at once placed in a condition of cleanliness and safety.*

During the second year of the existence of the Board, 35,000 inspections were made and reported to the Sanitary Superintendent, over 4,000 drains and sewers were built, cleansed, or repaired, nearly 10,000 dangerous places were disinfected, and more than 100 offensive or deleterious manufactories discontinued. Beside this, many improvements were effected in a variety of ways, owing to the accuracy of the information acquired in regard to existing evils, and the prompt and faithful manner in which the necessary remedies were applied. It was a kind of occupation for which Dr. Dalton was peculiarly fitted, and which brought out all his

* The most complete account of the design and operation of the Metropolitan Board of Health, is given in an article, written by Dr. Dalton, in the *North American Review* for April, 1868.

valuable qualities as a superintending and executive officer.

During the year 1868, however, his position became less satisfactory. The constitution of the Board of Commissioners had now changed, by the retirement of some of the original members, who had been foremost in establishing its character as a public benefit, and whose presence had been a guarantee that its legitimate objects would be carried out in a thoroughly upright and effective manner, irrespective of any other considerations than those of the public welfare. This was no longer the case. It was evident that political and partisan influences had been introduced into the Board, which became of greater weight than the impartial execution of public duty. Dr. Dalton found that he was expected and desired to allow these political considerations an influence in the manner in which he should administer the office of Sanitary Superintendent.

Such expectations could only meet, from him, with an absolute and contemptuous refusal. As he found, accordingly, after a time, that he was no longer in sympathy with the majority of Commissioners who controlled the policy of the Board of Health, he determined to sever his connection with it, and devote himself fully to medical practice. He continued to discharge the duties of the office until an acceptable successor could be obtained, and finally resigned his position in January, 1869.

During this time he had also been engaged, to some extent, in other professional work. His clear judgment, and ready method of imparting his ideas,

qualities of the highest value in a medical teacher, led him into connection with his Alma Mater, the College of Physicians and Surgeons. He was Clinical Assistant to the Professor of Practical Medicine in this institution, and Lecturer on Diseases of the Nervous System in the summer session. He was Visiting Physician to the Sheltering Arms, and to the Orphans' Home and Asylum, two of the private charitable institutions in the city, and was also Associate Physician to the New York Hospital for Paralytics and Epileptics.

This cheerful and happy period, during which he was engaged in constant and congenial occupation, was shadowed, however, by the loss of his only child, an infant daughter, who died in the summer of 1868, after a short illness, at the age of a little less than one year.

In the summer of 1869 he received a sudden and severe blow in the death of his wife, to whom he was devotedly attached, and whose death took place in the most unexpected manner, and under circumstances of peculiar sadness.* For some months previously his own health had been in a precarious condition, owing, as he believed, to occasional returns of his old malarial difficulty. Soon after his wife's death, however, he fell seriously ill with an attack of latent pleurisy, which became so severe as to disable him entirely; and his recovery from this attack was marked by one or two relapses, which gave his friends much additional anxiety.

During the whole of this illness he remained at his

* She died of hemorrhage, from placenta previa, at the time of confinement.

brother's house, in Massachusetts. Although in the course of the autumn his strength became partly re-established, yet it was evident that the effects of the pleurisy still lingered, and that they could be dissipated only by a considerable period of care and rest. By the advice of his physician, Dr. J. Nelson Borland, he abandoned for a time the idea of resuming active business, and in the following February sailed for Europe, where he took up his residence at Pau, in the south of France.

The mild climate of this region was at first favorable to him; but early in April he was again prostrated by a malarial attack, which for some weeks threatened to be fatal. He recovered from it, however, with his usual elasticity, and, after spending the summer in travelling through Switzerland with one of the members of his family who had gone out to meet him, he returned home in October, much improved, and ready to resume the practice of his profession.

He had already determined to leave New York and establish himself in Boston, where two of his brothers resided, and where he had many and warm personal friends. His professional relations in this new field at once became most agreeable and satisfactory. He was appointed Visiting Physician to the Massachusetts General Hospital, and Instructor in Theory and Practice in the Massachusetts Medical College. These employments, so fully adapted to his taste, beside the steadily increasing circle of his private practice, in a location surrounded by his family and friends, seemed to promise, at last, a gradual abatement of his mental disappointments, and a future of comparative happiness.

But his physical condition proved to be such that he could not bear the climate of the Atlantic coast. The cough had never entirely left him since his first attack; and, notwithstanding every precaution, he was liable to the recurrence or exaggeration of symptoms which could not exist without danger. During the summer of 1871, these symptoms increased to such an extent, that it became evident both to himself and his friends, that he could not remain where he was with the slightest prospect of recovery. He took the determination to abandon, temporarily, his professional business, and to try for some years, the climate of California; trusting to an out-door life in that milder region to reinstate himself thoroughly in a condition of efficiency and health. He started, accordingly, for California in the month of October, in company with his friend and companion of many years, Dr. Foster Swift, who was going, with his family, in the same direction.

During all this time nothing could exceed the fortitude and cheerfulness with which he bore the succession of his trials, disappointments, and suffering. Of all the admirable qualities that belonged to his nature, none commanded the respect and sympathy of his friends more than this. With his family, his business, and his health destroyed, with a new home and new prospects just established and again abandoned under the same imperious necessity, he was now turning his face to the Pacific coast with the deliberate intention, as the best result, of living there for several years, with a new occupation, new acquaintances, and new interests, to be separated from his former home by the breadth of the con-

tinent;—and this, after all, with broken health and a doubtful prospect of success. And yet there were no vain regrets, no lingering hesitation, no self-pitying complaints. He thought always first of his friends, and last of himself. He would not allow his own want of cheerfulness to add to the anxiety of others, and at every period during his illness his presence was a source of encouragement and not of depression.

But this unyielding resistance and buoyancy of disposition was destined to be its own sole reward; for the malady which had been following him for three years, was now too firmly fixed to unloose its hold, and the wanderer was never to return to his Eastern home. For the first few months after his arrival in California he again felt the beneficial influence of a new atmosphere and a mild and bracing climate. His strength and spirits improved, and after visiting various parts of the country, he fixed himself in the neighborhood of Santa Barbara, on the southern coast, where he nearly completed his arrangements for the purchase and management of a farm.

But early in the following spring his health again failed; and the renewed symptoms, accompanied with some suffering, speedily reduced his strength beyond the possibility of recovery. Still cheerful and confident to the last, he bore with ready fortitude every pain and discomfort inseparable from his illness, and yielded up his life with the same quiet and unassuming constancy that he had always shown in the performance of its duties. Fortunately, he was surrounded, during the last few weeks of his life, by members of his own family, as well as by the friends

who had been with him heretofore. He died on the evening of Monday, May 13th, 1872.

His character was a rare combination of the gentlest and strongest qualities. A refinement without the trace of blemish, an instinctive sense of honor and integrity which simply knew no other path to follow than the right one, as unhesitating in the smallest particulars as in the greatest; an unusually generous, unselfish and unsuspicious nature, but with an instantaneous perception of deceit or insincerity in others; remarkable gentleness and courtesy of manner, with an inflexible determination in the execution of his duty, whatever it might be, were the main elements in his disposition. His capacity for organization and command was exercised without display, and made itself felt more by its results than by its immediate operation. His mental superiority and professional acquirements were of the same unobtrusive character. He never seemed a laborious student, and yet he always occupied the foremost rank among his medical associates, and was equal to every demand upon his professional knowledge or skill. He seldom conversed upon the most serious topics of human life; but when he did so, his expressions showed that none of them had been omitted in his thoughts, and that his convictions were equally removed from indifference and presumption. Above all, his friendship was unwavering, and his sincerity without the shadow of a change. Such were the traits by which we knew him.

Organization of the Depot Field Hospitals,

ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,

in December, 1864.

Chief Medical Officer.

EDWARD B. DALTON, Surgeon U. S. V.

Executive Officer, in Office of Chief Medical Officer.

JAMES COLLINS, Asst. Surg. U. S. V.

Medical Inspector.

JOHN M. KOLLOCK, Surgeon Fiftieth Regiment, P. V.

Medical Director of Transportation.

MORRIS N. ASCH, Asst. Surg. U. S. A.

Quartermaster.

Captain JAMES E. JONES, A. Q. M.

Commissary of Subsistence.

Captain BENJ. F. TALBOT, C. S.

Second Corps Hospital.

GEO. B. PARKER, Surgeon, U. S. V., Surgeon in Charge.
NOAH M. GLADFELTER, Asst. Surgeon, U. S. V.
JOHN AIKIN, Acting Staff Surgeon, U. S. A.
JOHN F. MYERS, " " " "
G. C. TERHUNE, Acting Asst. Surgeon, U. S. A.
G. W. JEWESSON, " " " "
DANIEL MANN, " " " "
SAM'L J. MILLER, " " " "

Fifth Corps Hospital.

WM. L. FAXON, Surg. 32d Mass. Vols., Surgeon in Charge.
HERMAN LOEWENTHAL, Asst. Surgeon, U. S. V.
L. D. BRAINARD, Acting Asst. Surgeon, U. S. A.
L. G. O'CONNOR, " " " "

Sixth Corps Hospital.

J. SYKES ELY, Asst. Surg. U. S. V., Surgeon in Charge.
J. K. JOHNSON, Acting Asst. Surgeon, U. S. A.
JOHN FEE, " " " "
JOSEPH D. STEWARD, " " "
JOSEPH TAYLOR, " " "

Ninth Corps Hospital.

WM. O. MCDONALD, Surg. U. S. V., Surgeon in Charge.
FERDINAND AXT, Acting Asst. Surgeon, U. S. A.
J. K. BURKHOLDER, " " " "
J. LUNNEY. " " " "
JOHN H. COMFORT, " " " "
JAMES MILLER, " " " "

Cavalry Corps Hospital.

THOMAS R. POOLEY, Asst. Surg. U. S. V., Surgeon in Charge.
JOSEPH E. HARNED, Acting Asst. Surgeon, U. S. A.
PROSPER BENDER, " " " "

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